

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application. The claims have also been amended to delete improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Andrew D. Meikle, #32,868

ADM/cgc
0475-0192P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made

(Rev. 01/22/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

The specification has been amended to provide cross-referencing to the International Application.

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) Process according to claim 3 [or 4], characterized in that chlorides, acetates or alcohols as well as oxo complexes are used as salts.

6. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of claims 1 to 5]claim 1, characterized in that dental ceramics are used in the pre-sintered state.

7. Process according to [at least one of claims 1 to 6]claim 1, characterized in that dental ceramics based on zirconium oxide or aluminum oxide are used.

8. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of claims 1 to 7]claim 1, characterized in that the ionic or complex-containing solutions are water- or alcohol-based.

9. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of claims 1 to 8]claim 1, characterized in that the action time of the ionic or complex-containing solutions is a matter of hours, in particular under two hours, quite particularly under 1 hour and particularly preferably under 20 minutes.

10. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of claims [at least one of claims 1 to 9]claim 1, characterized in that the concentration of the solutions is 0.001 to 15 wt -%.

11. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of claims 1 to 10]claim 1, characterized in that colouring takes place by immersion of the ceramic in the solutions, deposition of the solutions to the ceramic with the help of application instruments or by spraying of the solutions onto the ceramic.

12. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of claims 1 to 11]claim 1, characterized in that the ceramics to be coloured have a diameter of 10 mm, preferably 7 mm, and a height of 7 mm, preferably 5 mm.

13. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of claims 1 to 12]claim 1, characterized in that the ceramics are completely through-coloured.